कमी नहीं आ रही है। तथापि गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान दलहनों के उत्पादन में उतार-चढ़ाव होता रहा है जैसा कि नीचे दिये गये आंकड़ों से देखा जा सकता है:

(लाख टन में)

वर्ष	उत्पादन
1995-96	123.10
1996-97	144.60
1997-98	130.75 (अनुमानित)

(ख) और (ग) जी, हां। 1996-97 की तुलना में 1997-98 के दौरान दलहनों के मूल्य में वृद्धि की प्रवृत्ति देखी गई है। तथापि, ज्यादातर मामलों में दलहनों के मूल्य 1995-96 की तुलना में या तो बराबर ही रहे या कम रहे।

1997-98 में मूल्यों में वृद्धि का कारण 1997-98 में दलहन-उत्पादन का कम होना है।

(घ) देश में दलहन-उत्पादन में बढ़ोतरी करने के लिए 26 राज्यों/केन्द्र शा० प्रदेशों में 282 जिलों को कवर करते हुए, राष्ट्रीय दलहन विकास परियोजना की एक केन्द्रीय प्रायोजित योजना कार्यान्वयनाधीन है जिसके अंतर्गत बीजों के उत्पादन तथा वितरण, बीज मिनीकिटों, सिंकल्पर सेटों, उन्नत कृषि उपस्करों आदि जैसे मुख्य-आदानों संबंधी सहायता मुहैया की जाती है। इसके अतिरिक्त, भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद द्वारा अग्रणी प्रदर्शन तथा कृषि राज्य विभाग द्वारा समेकित कीट प्रबंध-प्रदर्शन आयोजित किए जा रहे हैं। ताकि किसानों में उत्पादन तथा संरक्षण प्रौद्योगिकी का प्रसार किया जा सके।

Shortage of Packing Material for Fruits in Maharashtra

170. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that fruit growers of Maharashtra are facing acute shortage of packaging material such as cartons etc. and high cost of transportation for their yield resulting in heavy losses to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Central and State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Government has not received any representation from the fruit growers of Maharashtra regarding the shortage of packing material and high cost of transportation. The Government is, however, providing financial assistance to various organisations such as Cooperative Societies, registered associations of farmers, NGO's, Private and Public Sector Companies and Individual farmers for purchase of plastic crates mainly used in handling and transportation of horticulture products including fruits.

Control of Muhkhuri disease in Madhya Pradesh

171. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal from Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding control of Muhkhuri disease and the expenditure which would be incurred in equal ratio by the Centre and the State;

(b) whether it has been felt that it is not possible for the beneficiary to spend fifty per cent amount of expenditure on vaccination; and

(c) by when Government would take a decision with regard to that proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Financial Expenditure on Nuclear Explosions

172. DR. SRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the financial expenditure incurred on the three tests performed on 11th May, 1998 at Pokharan;

(b) whether Government have a plan to carry such tests at regular intervals and if so what is the plan; and

(c) what steps will be taken to explain India's stand to those countries who are signatories to the Comprehensive Tests Ban Treaty (CTBT)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) It is not in the national interest to disclose the information sought for.

(b) Government have announced a moratorium on further nuclear tests and offered to formalise it into an obligation through negotiations with key world powers.

(c) Government are taking the necessary steps in this direction.

Use of Indigenous Technology in Nuclear Tests

173. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent and range of indigenous technology used in the recent three underground nuclear tests at Pokhran;

(b) the extent to which these tests will help research in nuclear technology for peaceful purposes; and

(c) what is India's stand on the CTBT and NPT in the new situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Research in the field of nuclear science and technology with particular reference to the nuclear power sector covers a very wide range of areas and is multi-disciplinary in nature. It covers chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, nuclear physics and chemistry, robotics, high precision measurements and production technology, electronics and information technology, etc. In particular, the scientists and engineers of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) have been able to achieve complete mastery over the entire nuclear fuel cycle starting from mining of uranium ore to production of uranium fuel of various kinds and the disposal of the waste, including reprocessing. The establishments of the Department of Atomic Energy have been involved in these areas of research ever since their inception. This entire range of mostly indigenously developed technology contributed to the success of the nuclear tests carried out recently at Pokhran.

(b) In principles, underground nuclear explosion can be used for peaceful applications like in-situ leaching of fractured coper ores, digging canals, etc. However, at present, neither India nor any other country is contemplating such applications.

(c) Government have stated that India would be prepared to consider being an adherent to some of the undertakings in the CTBT. However, it has also been stated that these decisions cannot be taken in a vacuum and will depend upon reciprocal responses. Government's position on the discriminatory NPT treaty is well-known.

Reasons for conducting Nuclear Explosion at Pokhran

174. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the three atomic/nuclear explosions made in Pokhran on 11th May, 1998;

(b) the reasons behind making these tests at this time; and

(c) the achievement of these tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Three Nuclear Tests were conducted on May 11, 1998. The tests on May 11 were a Thermonuclear Device with a yield of about 45 kT, a Fission Device with a yield of about 15 kT and a low yield device with a yield of about 0.2 kT. All the tests were fully contrained with no release of radioactivity into the atmosphere. The measured yields are in line with expected values.